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Army and State Dept. reviews completed

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NOFORN

✓ SC #09885/61

Copy #

26 December 1961

WEEKLY CHRONOLOGY OF REPORTS CONCERNING THE BERLIN SITUATION
RECEIVED DURING WEEK OF 19 DEC - 26 DEC

25X1X

Late Nov

[REDACTED]

25X1X

[REDACTED] for twelve months beginning in June 1962 the Soviets intend to place orders worth 16 billion Marks with West Berlin industries in order to make the city increasingly dependent on trade with the USSR. (SECRET/NOFORN)

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5 Dec

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[redacted] an officer of the GDR Ministry for State Security had said that to increase the security of the East-West Berlin sector border the most elite and trustworthy East German regiments would be assigned to guard the wall. [redacted] negotiations were then underway to determine whether elite Polish or Czech troops could be used for this duty, adding that Warsaw Pact troops on the sector border would complicate the situation for the Allies and could embarrass them considerably. (SECRET/NOFORN/CONT'D CONTROL)

The Social Democratic Party group of the West German Bundestag decided to meet in West Berlin on 9 January. (OUO)

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13 Dec

In order to avoid "misunderstanding" about the sentiments of Berliners, Mayor Brandt, attending the WEU meeting in Paris, raised the question of a West Berlin referendum to decide whether Allied forces should remain in the city and whether existing ties with West Germany should be modified. A Senat official later said that no "warning" to the Allies had been intended as reported by the press, but rather that Brandt desired to assist policy "guidance" in the right direction and to provide a convincing demonstration of the feelings of Berliners. (OUO)

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NOFORN

14 Dec West German Bundestag President Gerstenmaier arrived in Berlin for a visit of several days. He declared that he would like to hold two Bundestag sessions in Berlin in 1962 this year but that the Berlin population would understand if he did not to do since it could be disadvantageous for Germany and the city. (OUO)

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15 Dec



In an interview with Izvestiya, East German acting premier Willi Stoph emphasized the alleged desire of "all peace-loving Germans" for a peace treaty, although he did not refer to any deadline. He declared, further, that the GDR believed that "there should be an agreement on the peaceful solution of the West Berlin question without delay," and reiterated that use of traffic routes to and from West Berlin would require negotiations with the GDR. (OUO)

17 Dec

The US element at Marienfelde processed 12 refugees.
(CONF)

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NOFORN

18 Dec

The US element at Marienfelde processed 55 refugees--
32 of whom claimed to have fled after 13 August. (CONF)

Soviet Ambassador Smirnov told a Bonn press conference that the USSR would not discuss proposals for an All-Berlin settlement, that the "free city" of West Berlin could be garrisoned by Western troops--though not on the basis of occupation rights--and maintain non-political ties to West Germany which would have to recall all of its offices from Berlin. Smirnov said that further Soviet unilateral actions would "depend on the attitude of the West Berlin authorities vis a vis the GDR. If, for instance, similar actions are repeated on the sector line as occurred in October, when American and British tanks attempted to break through the wall, then it may not be expected that the Eastern side would avoid taking extra steps."
(OUO)

19 Dec

CINCUSAREUR reported that approximately 25 steel I-beams, extending 5 feet above the surface, had been sunk vertically into the center strip of the Autobahn for a distance of 50 yards east of the Soviet checkpoint at Helmstedt. (CONF)

The US element at Marienfelde processed 32 refugees--all of whom claimed to have fled after 13 August. (CONF)

The US duty train from Bremerhaven waited at Marienborn for 56 minutes for an East German engine. (CONF)

East and West German railroad authorities, meeting in East Berlin, agreed to operate extra holiday trains between the Federal Republic and West Berlin. (UNCL)

20 Dec

Extensive air reconnaissance of the rail complexes around Berlin revealed no military traffic on the lines leading into East Berlin, thus negating reports that a large number of freight cars were to be dispatched from East Berlin to Erfurt and then return on or about 20 December. (SECRET/NOFORN)

In an editorial calling for speedy East-West negotiations, Neues Deutschland said that a peace treaty would give the GDR control of Berlin access. "Whether on land, water or in the air, /the access routes/ will be able to be used only on the basis of agreements with the Government of the German Democratic Republic." (UNCL)

The West German newspapers Bonner Rudschau and Rhein Neckar Zeitung reported that "eastern diplomats" in Berlin "feared" that if US convoy movements along the Autobahn continued the GDR would "in the immediate future" begin halting all civilian Autobahn traffic for the period of the convoy's transit. (OUO)

Neues Deutschland said that if the West Berlin Senat were "reasonable" it would be possible to arrange for travel to the GDR by opening GDR "travel bureaus" in West Berlin and reunifying families by returning "young people separated from their families home to the GDR." "If the West Berlin Senat is really concerned with these matters and not with NATO's psychological warfare, its representatives could approach the GDR Government right away....Brandt's Senat is not concerned with human beings and humanity, but only with an incitement campaign against the first German peace state and with making a mockery of the West Berlin population...." (UNCL)

20 Dec
Con't

The morning US duty train from Frankfurt was delayed for more than an hour waiting the arrival of an East German locomotive, which then broke down in the Potsdam station. Two hours elapsed before another engine, which had pulled the outgoing British train to Potsdam, was available. (CONFIDENTIAL)

21 Dec East Berlin police banned fireworks of any kind within 100 yards of the sector border and outlawed the use of aerial rockets in the Berlin area. They also forbade large holiday parties without expressed permission of the East Berlin police chief. (UNCL)

The West Berlin Senat elected Heinrich Albertz to succeed the late Joachim Lipschitz as Senator for the Interior--West Berlin's chief police official. (UNCL)

The US POLAD, enroute to Karlshorst for a prearranged meeting with the Soviet POLAD, was stopped at Friedrichstrasse by VOPOS who demanded identification. The VOPOS told the American diplomat that they had not been informed of his coming by the Soviets. The POLAD returned to West Berlin. The US Commandant protested to Karlshorst by phone. An appointment was requested for him to meet Colonel Solovyev the following morning. (CONF)

East German construction crews completed four more observation towers along the West Berlin-zonal border. There now are 90 such towers--only a few of them at the sector border. (CONF)

VOPOS tailed a USCOB patrol in East Berlin for an hour and a half, the first such incident since 12 December. There was no attempt at harassment, however; at times the VOPOS stayed as far as 200 yards from the patrol. (CONF)

USCOB reported that the East Germans were speeding up the construction of watch towers along the sector and zonal borders. 71 were under construction or had been completed along the zonal border, while 15 more were on the sector border. (CONF/NOFORN)

ADN denounced a riot control exercise to be staged by USCOB the next day as a "large-scale war exercise directly before Christmas [which] constitutes a provocation against forces seeking a peaceful West Berlin settlement." (UNCL)

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21 Dec
Con't

Mayor Brandt met with Hans Martin Helbricht, the Superintendent General of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in West Berlin, to discuss the possibility of the Church's acting as an intermediary in arranging sector border passes. The Lutheran press office in West Berlin reported that Brandt had agreed to "go to any length" to obtain permits for West Berliners to visit close relatives in East Berlin and East Germany during the period 24 December-6 January. The Brandt-Helbricht meeting followed by several days an unsuccessful demarche by the Evangelical Superintendent of East Berlin to GDR authorities. (UNCL)

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22 Dec

East Berlin's domestic service announced that "competent authorities are ready, in the interest of the reunion of families, to grant permission to take up residence in the GDR to all former GDR citizens who now reside in West Germany or West Berlin. The GDR Government will provide apartments and jobs...." (UNCL)

A Soviet 24th TAA IL-28 dispensed a new type of chaff--microchaff--during an ECM exercise in the southern air corridor into Berlin. (SECRET)

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NOFORN

23 Dec West Berlin Mayor Brandt ordered a "news blackout" on refugees and escapes across the sector border. (UNCL)

The US Commandant, General Watson, enroute to a pre-arranged meeting with Colonel Solovyev at Karlshorst, turned back at Friedrichstrasse at 1100 hours when VOPOs demanded that his civilian aides present identification. Watson protested the incident in writing to Solovyev, terming it a "deliberate affront" and "an inexcusable action which makes contacts between us difficult to continue." He demanded that Solovyev "take corrective action...You must know that, in view of the recent stopping of my POLAD and now myself, you are fully responsible for making it impossible for you or me and your POLADS to visit each other." The US Ambassador in Bonn protested the incident--"an unprecedented act of bad faith--"to Soviet Ambassador Pervukhin in East Berlin. (LUO)

24 Dec The number of East German police along the sector border increased sharply; USCOB estimated that 100 extra guards were stationed along the US Sector border, with 75 additional guards posted along the British Sector border. Soviet vehicular patrols in West Berlin were increased. 15 patrols entered West Berlin on 23 and again on 24 December. 12 patrols entered West Berlin between midnight on Christmas Eve and noon on Christmas. (CONF)

SECRET
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25 Dec Commenting on the Kennedy-Macmillan meeting in Bermuda, East Berlin's domestic service said the Western leaders "disappointed the desire of their peoples for peace and detente in the world...." Those circles in Washington who still believe they can ignore realities obviously intend to continue with their tactics of delay in the peaceful solution of the German problem and the West Berlin question...The result which Macmillan took back to London in his baggage was received in England with skepticism and regret, for on the Thames also people had hoped that the United States and Great Britain would decide on a more reasonable policy, above all on the German question." (UNCL)

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26 Dec

REUTER's reported from East Berlin that Ambassador Dowling's protest of 23 December to Soviet Ambassador Pervukhin had been referred to Moscow and quoted "informed Soviet sources" to the effect that it was "just possible" that the Soviet reply would take the form of a counter-protest from the Foreign Ministry in Moscow.
(UNCL)

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LIMITED DISTRIBUTION SUPPLEMENT TO BERLIN CHRONOLOGY

14 Dec The US Embassy in London learned from Henderson of the Foreign Office that on the eve of his meeting with the President the Prime Minister had received a letter devoted to the problem of Berlin from Khrushchev. The letter reiterated the Soviet position and contained no new elements. (SECRET S/S BUO)

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NOFORN/BUO/NO FURTHER DISSEM/CONTINUED CONTROL

18 Dec The West German Ambassador in Moscow told his US and British colleagues that Soviet Ambassador Smirnov told Chancellor Adenauer in December that the Soviets were not seeking any "great change" in the status of Berlin but that the occupation statute would have to "disappear." Smirnov reportedly said that the USSR preferred a negotiated settlement which would help not only in disarmament negotiations but also in dealing with the All-German question, and that Berlin access would have to be arranged with the East Germans in accordance with the usages of international law. (SECRET S/S BUO)

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